



January 6, 2006

Dear Superintendent;

The South Dakota Department of Education is seeking your help in nominating teachers from your district that can help in the different content or bias process (see list below). Elementary, Middle School, and High School teachers are needed along with Special Education and ELL teachers. SDDOE will reimburse mileage, meals, and lodging. Teachers will be required to sign a contract for any other reimbursement.

This is a great opportunity for your school to see what the changes to the different assessment will look like. We hope you can help us by nominating teachers from your district. **You will need to complete the Nomination Form along with checking which activity your teacher would like to participate.** Nominations may be made via email to me at: [Gay.Pickner@state.sd.us](mailto:Gay.Pickner@state.sd.us) or faxed to 773-3782. The deadline for nominations is . Questions may be directed to Gay Pickner 773-3247 or 280-3613

**\*March 27<sup>th</sup> Reading Alignment for DakotaSTEP-Alternate** in Sioux Falls, SD at the Downtown Holiday Inn begins at 1 pm.

Experts in reading at grades 4 and 5 and familiar with students with disabilities will be needed to reconcile the test items that did not align with the intended alternate reading content standards. These teachers will be shown these discrepancies and asked to reconcile these differences. They will decide whether the item in question should be re-rated to match the HEM intended alignment, the September, 2005 alignment rating, both HEM and the September, 2005 alignment rating, or whether the HEM alignment is inaccurate (i.e., an item is better aligned to another standard, or does not align to any standard).

**\*March 28<sup>th</sup> Reading Alignment for DakotaSTEP** in Sioux Falls, SD at the Downtown Holiday Inn beginning at 8:30 am and ending at 4:30 pm. These teachers will need to be experts in Reading at the appropriate grade levels. They will judge the extent that the assessment items or tasks align with a set of content standards in both content and cognitive level and classify items into performance level categories to provide an examination of the degree to which the assessment has sufficient breadth to cover the performance level expectations.

Needed are teachers at each grade level, a teacher of English Language Learners, and a special education teacher.

**\*April 25-26<sup>th</sup> DakotaSTEP-Alternate Cut Scores for Reading and Math** in Sioux Falls, SD at the Downtown Holiday Inn. These teachers will set the cut scores in reading and math for the DakotaSTEP-Alternate test in grades K-12.

**\*May 9-10<sup>th</sup> DakotaSTEP-ELP Cut Scores Setting** in Sioux Falls, at the Downtown Holiday Inn. These teachers will set the cut scores for the DakotaSTEP-ELP test in grades K-12.

**\*May 23-24<sup>th</sup> DakotaSTEP Math Standards setting and Post Alignment Study** in Sioux Falls, SD at the Downtown Holiday Inn. The Dakota STEP Math test is in the process of being rewritten for the 2006-2007 school year. Based on the new math standards, the test does not have to be totally rewritten but certain sections will change. We are in need of teachers who have strong math backgrounds and teachers who represent various ethnic groups. Teachers who work with IEP and LEP students are needed for this work

Again, if you or your teachers have any questions, please feel free to contact me anytime. DOE looks forward to working with your teachers during these different content or bias process.

Sincerely,

Gay Pickner  
South Dakota Assessment Director